

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 11-21 are pending in the application, with claims 11, 17, 18, 20, and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 1-10 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the canceled claims, in the future. New claims 11-21 are sought to be added to more clearly define various embodiments of Applicants' disclosed techniques. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because "there are some abbreviations that do not spell out the expression the first time it is used." Based on the foregoing amendments, paragraphs [0036], [0038], and [0039] of the substitute specification submitted herewith have been amended to accommodate the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejections, claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 have been cancelled for other reasons, and to expedite prosecution, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 2000-92236 to Shuichi *et al.* (hereinafter "Shuichi"). The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-76336 to Taro (hereinafter "Taro") in view of Shuichi. The Examiner has further rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Taro in view of Shuichi, and in further view of Japanese Publication No. 06-215009 to Shunichi (hereinafter "Shunichi"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the above rejections, claims 1-10 have been cancelled by the above amendment. Therefore, the rejection of claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been rendered moot.

New Claims

New claims 11-21 are sought to be added. To the extent the Examiner may make rejections to the new claims that are similar to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10, Applicants provide the following remarks.

Claims 11-17 and 21

Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 11 and 21. For example, Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi fail to teach or suggest a host computer "transmitting to a mobile communications device a request for user identification information in response to receiving the query information from the service device," as recited in claims 11 and 21.

The Examiner, on page 10 of the present Office Action, explicitly agrees that Taro fails to mention the use of a mobile communications device, as recited in claims 11 and 21. Consequently, Taro cannot teach or suggest the distinguishing feature of claims 11 and 21. Similarly, Shunichi fails to mention the use of a mobile communications device in any regards, as recited in claims 11 and 21. Consequently, Shunichi does not cure the deficiencies of Taro because it does not teach or suggest the distinguishing features of claims 11 and 21.

The Examiner, however, submits that the communications terminal of Shuichi "is equivalent to a mobile device." *See* Office Action, page 11. Even if we assume, for the sake of argument, that the communications terminal of Shuichi is, in fact, equivalent to a mobile device, Shuichi still fails to teach or suggest a host computer that "transmits to a

mobile communications device a request for user identification information **in response to receiving the query information from the service device.**" (emphasis added). At most, Shuichi describes authenticating a user of a communications terminal by a provider. *See* Shuichi, paragraph [0003]. The provider of Shuichi, however, does not request user identification information from the communications terminal, such as a user ID, **in response to receiving query information from a service device**, as recited in claims 11 and 21. Thus, Shuichi does not cure the deficiencies of the other applied references.

For at least the reasons stated above, claims 11 and 21 are patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination. Dependent claims 12-16 are similarly patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi for the same reasons as claim 11, from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claims 11-16.

Similar to claims 11 and 21, Independent claim 17 recites features that distinguish over the applied references. For example, claim 17 recites a host computer that includes "a transmitter operable to transmit a request for the user identification information to the mobile communications device in response to receiving the query information from the service device, and further operable to transmit authentication information, to the service device, based on comparison results." As noted above in regards to similar distinguishing features recited in claims 11 and 21, Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest this distinguishing feature of claim 17. Therefore, claim 17 is patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in

combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claim 17.

Claims 18-20

Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 18. For example, Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi fail to teach or suggest a communications device that includes the feature of “a receiver operable to receive, from a host computer, a request for information regarding authentication of a user at a service device...wherein the communications device is a mobile communications device,” as recited in claim 18.

As noted above, The Examiner, on page 10 of the present Office Action, explicitly agrees that Taro fails to mention the use of a mobile communications device, as recited in claim 18. Consequently, Taro cannot teach or suggest the distinguishing feature of claim 18. Similarly, Shunichi fails to mention the use of a mobile communications device in any regards, as recited in claims 18. Consequently, Shunichi does not cure the deficiencies of Taro because it does not teach or suggest the distinguishing features of claim 18.

Also as stated above, the Examiner, however, submits that the communications terminal of Shuichi “is equivalent to a mobile device.” *See* Office Action, page 11. Even if we assume, for the sake of argument, that the communications terminal of Shuichi is, in fact, equivalent to a mobile device, Shuichi still fails to teach or suggest a mobile communications device that includes the feature of “a receiver operable to receive, from a host computer, a request for information regarding authentication of a

user **at a service device,**” as recited in claim 18 (emphasis added). At most, Shuichi describes authenticating a user of a communications terminal by a provider. *See* Shuichi, paragraph [0003]. The provider of Shuichi, requests authentication of the communication terminal at the provider, **not** at a service device, as recited in claim 18. Thus, Shuichi does not cure the deficiencies of the other applied references.

For at least the reasons stated above, claim 18 is patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination. Dependent claim 19 is similarly patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi for the same reason as claim 18, from which it depends, and further in view of its own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claims 18-19.

Independent claim 20 recites similar distinguishing features as claim 18. For example, claim 20 recites a computer program product comprising a computer useable medium including control logic that includes "means for receiving, from a host computer, a request for information regarding authentication of a user at a service device ... wherein the communications device is a mobile communications device" As noted above in regard to claim 18, Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest these similar distinguishing features. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over Shuichi, Taro, and Shunichi, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claim 20.

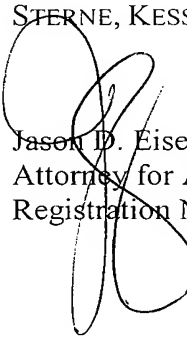
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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